

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE YELLOW  
MEDICINE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
GRANITE FALLS, MINNESOTA  
August 12, 2003**

The Yellow Medicine County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 am on Tuesday, August 12, 2003, in the board meeting room. Present were Commissioners Lynn Anderson, Ron Antony, Jane Remiger, Louie Sherlin and Chairperson Gary Johnson. Also present were County Attorney Thomas Kramer, County Auditor Carolyn Sherlin, news reporters Bethany Norgaard, and Dan McGonigle and Art Larson. The chairperson called the meeting to order and the agenda for the day and the minutes of July 22, 2003 were approved.

Commissioners Reports were given on the following topics: Community Corrections, Pioneer Library System, Western Revolving Loan Fund, Prairie Five, Lazarus Creek Update, Western Mental Health and the Radio Use Meeting.

Ditch Inspector John Kolhei requested that a public hearing date be scheduled for 11:30 am on September 9th to set ditch liens for 2004. Sherlin moved for approval, Remiger seconded motion, all voted in favor. Remiger moved to authorize the ditch inspector to proceed with regular ditch spraying using the Lawn Manicurist business, Sherlin seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Tammy Bremseth, Nancy Bertrand, and Lori Carter, representing the County Extension Committee, presented their recommendation for the future of Extension and the local 4-H program. The University has selected eighteen regional Extension centers to serve the area, with the closest office to our area located in Marshall. Counties may then decide to maintain local offices for 4-H programs and other services that Extension has traditionally supplied. The County Extension Committee hosted a public meeting that focused on the importance of the 4-H program in our county. With the information gained from that meeting, a recommendation was made that the county should continue the 4-H Program by hiring a qualified director with a four-year degree to supervise the program. A clerical assistant and a nutrition education assistant would also be hired. All would be four/fifths time employees. The program director would be an employee of the University of Minnesota and they would assist in the hiring process. The cost of this scenario is \$121,020. Other programs considered important to our area are the master gardener program, food safety and agriculture. Because the new plan does not require as much office space, Remiger moved to direct Extension and Planning & Zoning Directors to explore all space options in an effort to save on rent. Antony seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Mavis Gustafson and Gary Velde, representing the Minnesota Machinery Museum presented the budget review of their organization. They are requesting \$14,500 from the county for support plus \$5000 building maintenance. No decision was made. Gustafson, also representing the Southern Minnesota Tourism Association, requested 5 cents per capita as financial support for that organization. The money is used for printing tourism brochures for our rural area.

County Assessor Connie Erickson requested approval for an abatement of taxes for Parcel #31-510-8402. This property is eligible for a reduction due to a house fire that occurred in May of 2003. Sherlin moved to approve the tax reduction of \$304, Antony seconded motion, all voted in favor. Erickson also explained that certified letters for homestead applications are currently sent out up to three times to new homeowners at a cost of \$4.45 per letter. The cost varies between \$250-\$600 per year and is both expensive and time consuming. The letter notifies them of a possible homestead classification on their property for which they need to complete the proper application. After discussion, Remiger moved to discontinue the practice of sending certified letters to new property owners, but to continue sending them out by regular mail. Sherlin seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Scott Conn from RDC, presented a video progress report of the GIS  
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ditch mapping system, which is being developed for our county. He stated that within a three-year time period, all county ditch information should be available on a computer program. This will save us time and money in the future when researching ditch information for work projects.

County Engineer John Johnson and Larry Stoks from the Highway Department requested permission to purchase a radio replacement repeater and duplexer at a cost of \$6679 plus tax and labor from West Central Communications. Antony moved for approval of the above, Anderson seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Johnson explained that there are approximately 80 intersections in the county that have poor vision due to crop growth at this time of year. A suggestion was made to offer cash incentives to farmers to remove crops from trouble spots for safety reasons. The consensus of the board was to first check for violations where crops are planted in the right of way, order the destruction of those crops, and start the process of determining other intersections where less crop growth would be safer. Johnson proposed offering cash incentives to farmers to promote the use of standing corn rows as snow fences for winter in certain areas. An offer of \$2.75 a bushel for corn left standing all winter was suggested. It is a proven fact that snow fences will reduce snow traps on roadways and will decrease the amount of snow removal necessary. The program will be implemented according to MN Dot guidelines. Antony moved to spend up to \$5000 for this program this year with an evaluation for next year. Remiger seconded motion, all voted in favor.

A request was made to send the maintenance workers to a special training this fall. Anderson moved for approval, Antony seconded motion. Voting yes: Anderson, Antony, Remiger, Sherlin. Voting no: Johnson. Motion carried.

The meeting was recessed at noon for lunch.

Remiger moved to close the meeting at 12:40 to discuss a personnel issue. Anderson seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Sherlin moved to approve the minutes and actions of the Welfare meeting held on July 22, 2003, Anderson seconded, motion carried.

Sherlin moved to appoint Lynn Anderson to the YMC HRA Board, effective on August 12. His term would expire on June 15, 2008. Remiger seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Antony moved to direct the auditor to contact MCIT to begin the process of procuring bids on employee Dental and Life Insurance, Remiger seconded motion, all voted in favor.

The following resolution was presented for adoption:

#### **SUPPORT FOR THE RIGHT TO PRACTICE FORESTRY ACT**

Yellow Medicine County

Resolution # 03-

WHEREAS, the practice of forestry is extremely important to the economy, environment, high-quality scenery, diversity of wildlife, and quality of water in lakes and streams in this state, and

WHEREAS, the proper use of forest resources is an inherent element in the viability and sustainability of communities located in forestland, and

WHEREAS, the availability of forest resources is critical for supporting quality health facilities, quality educational systems, and employment for residents choosing to live on forest land or in forest land communities,

WHEREAS, prescriptive management of forestland through proactive quality land stewardship programs utilizing combined biophysical information and silvicultural principles and practices is necessary for the establishment of new forest crops, tending existing and new forest crops and removal of wood fiber, and

WHEREAS, the inherent quality of forestland and related resources must be sustained for its residents, and

WHEREAS, the protection of private property rights is an integral part of the right to practice forestry,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Yellow Medicine County Board of Commissioners supports the passage of SF1092, "The Right To Practice

Forestry Act."

Sherlin moved for adoption of the above, Anderson seconded motion, all voted in favor.

The Veterans Service Office requested permission to purchase a new computer for their office. Antony moved to accept the low bid of Mobile Computer Support with a recommendation to order a standard 19-in monitor, Remiger seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Remiger moved to appoint Antony to the Creative Solutions committee, Anderson seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Anderson moved to appoint Remiger to the employee recognition event committee, Antony seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Antony stated that a job description should be written for the Auditor-Treasurer Position before considering a combination of offices. He felt that specific duties should be defined for the new position. A suggestion was made to contact Swift County for their expertise in the above, and also to considering a temporary arrangement for sharing of a coordinator. This will be discussed at a meeting with the Swift County Board on Friday. Antony moved to appoint the Deputy Treasurer as acting County Treasurer in the interim process until a decision on the combination of offices is considered. Remiger seconded, motion carried.

The following resolution was presented for approval:

Be it hereby resolved that Parcel # 32-009-2330 forfeited to the State of Minnesota for non-payment of taxes, appearing on the list filed with the County Auditor, which has been classified and appraised as provided by Minnesota Laws, 1935, Chapter 386, shall be offered for sale by the Yellow Medicine County Auditor. Said sale to begin at 10:00 am on Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2003, and the County Auditor is directed to publish a notice of sale as provided by law. Minimum bid for Parcel 32-009-2330 (drying plant) is set at \$1000. Be it further resolved that the terms of the sale shall be CASH only. Sherlin moved for approval, Remiger seconded, motion carried.

Discussion was held on the lawsuit brought against the county by Art Larson in reference to the granting of the Knutson conditional use permit for a hog confinement facility. The county attorney stated that the issue was turned over to the county insurance carrier, MCIT, for defense.

The county attorney reported that work is almost complete on the fairgrounds construction project. A deadline of July 25 was set for completion of all remaining work. He was directed to send a letter to Redfield Construction telling them that unless work is completed, the final payment will be reduced or withheld.

Anderson moved to transfer \$770.04 from the Missing Heirs fund to the undesignated fund balance, Remiger seconded, motion carried. Sherlin moved to transfer \$262.50 from the Revenue Fund to the Construction Fund in order to make the final payment to Ryer Plumbing. Anderson seconded motion, all voted in favor.

The county attorney reported that all paperwork for the flood buyouts has been completed, but both the DNR and FEMA had new concerns to be considered before final completion can be made. He also reported that Parcel #09-003-4050 (Hagen property) was sold at a public auction for \$9500 on July 18 and requested approval for final sale. Sherlin moved to approve the sale of this property and directed the chairperson to sign the quitclaim deed of sale. Remiger seconded motion, all voted in favor.

The remainder of the day was spent on department budget review.

The following claims were presented for approval:

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REVENUE FUND

Advocate-Tribune	934.09
American Communications Inc	450.00
Aramark Correctional Services	5,246.08
Roselyn Biermaier	151.21
Bob Barker Company, Inc.	396.47
Bound Tree Medical, LLC	311.09
Michelle Caveney	111.11
Cenex Convenience Card	820.17
Chappell Central, Inc	487.50
Clarkfield Fire Dept	100.00
Computer Profess Unlimited Inc	2,387.22
Consumers Coop Oil Co	162.73
Countryside Pub Health Service	1,300.00
County Market	157.04
Daves Family Foods	377.55
Davis Typewriter Co, Inc	488.70
Ecolab	458.53
Equity Elevator & Trading Co	128.83
Connie Erickson	109.44
Farm & Home Publishers	1,176.76
Farmers Coop Association	118.21
Graham Tire Co, Inc	573.01
Mavis Gustafson	103.60
Hatletvedt Enterprises	5,978.00
Innovative Office Solutions	143.07
Izaty's Golf & Yacht Club	866.50
K.E.E.P.R.S.	692.55
Loffler Business Systems Inc	689.06
M & H Communications	499.00
LeAnn Manor	115.57
Martin Marietta Aggregates	560.06
McLaughlin & Schulz Inc	977.80
MN Sheriffs Assn	600.00
MN State Auditor	10,837.78
Michelle Molden	116.23
Norment Security Group Inc	775.00
Olson Sanitation LLC	4,652.25
Prairie Lakes Detention Center	1,785.00
Jane Remiger	148.32
Security Products Co	232.70
Carolyn Sherlin	146.02
Simplex Grinnell	1,595.64
Tri-County Coop Oil Company	339.11
University of MN-Ag Ext Service	2,219.62
Velvet Uniforms	117.29
Viking Office Products Inc	381.39
West Central Communications, Inc	1,052.43
YMC Highway Department	340.44
Payments less than \$100	2,192.88
TOTAL	\$54,603.05

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

A & J Auto Supply Inc	757.82
Commissioner of Transportation	110.00
Computer Profess Unlimited Inc	338.92
G & K Services Inc	118.85
Graham Tire Co, Inc	1,277.81
Helena Chemical Co	5,000.45
Independent Oil Co	251.44
Dr. Lang	1,485.00
M-R Sign Inc	110.59
Martin Marietta Aggregates	1,637.23
Mc Laughlin & Schulz Inc	11,886.07
Midwest Truck & Parts Inc	1,176.96
Rupp Construction Co, Inc	3,301.11
Sturdevant's Auto Supply	146.62
Tjosvold Equipment, Inc	336.99
Tri-County Coop Oil Company	320.97
United Rentals-HT Branch 229	612.50
Willmar Fire Equipment Inc	891.17

Payments less than \$100	802.21
TOTAL	\$30,562.71

CONSTRUCTION FUND

Ryer Plumbing & Heating Inc	262.50
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DITCH FUND

K & K Tiling Inc	7,836.50
Upper MN Regional Development	5,600.00
Payments less than \$100	242.78
TOTAL	\$13,679.28

<b>FINAL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$99,107.54</b>
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Revenue Fund also presented Meals & Per diems in the amount of \$860.29. Remiger moved to approve payment for the above claims, Anderson seconded motion, all voted in favor. As all business for the day was completed, the meeting was on motion, adjourned.

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Chairperson, Yellow Medicine  
County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Carolyn Sherlin, County Auditor  
and Clerk to the County Board